

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Steam conditioning device (30), comprising:
 - at least one steam outlet (33);
 - directing means (50) for directing a steam flow (SF) toward the at least one steam outlet (33) along a steam flow path; and
 - vortex generating means which are arranged along the steam flow path, and which are adapted to creating local pressure differences in the steam flow (SF) in order to obtain vortices (V) in the steam flow (SF); and
 - channel segments (54) for interrupting the steam flow path, which are arranged in order to open against the direction of the steam flow (SF).
2. (Original) Steam conditioning device (30) according to claim 1, comprising hindering members (52, 53, 54) for interrupting the steam flow (SF).
3. (Currently Amended) Steam conditioning device (30) according to claim 1 [[or 2]], comprising a conduit (50) for directing the steam flow (SF), which conduit (50) has conduit portions (51) which are interconnected in a staggering manner, wherein the vortex generating means comprise both ends (52) of each conduit portion (51).
4. (Currently Amended) Steam conditioning device (30) according to claim 1 any of claims 1-3, comprising baffles (53) for interrupting the steam flow path.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) Steam conditioning device (30) according to claim 1 any of claims 1-5, comprising at least one raised portion (35) having oblique walls, and means (36) for directing the steam flow (SF) toward a top of the raised portion (35).

7. (Currently Amended) Steam conditioning device (30) according to claim 1 any of claims 1-6, wherein the vortex generating means are adapted to creating vortices (V) in at least two different planes.

8. (Currently Amended) Steam conditioning device (30) according to claim 1 any of claims 1-7, comprising two vortex chambers (31, 32) for accommodating the vortex generating means, wherein the vortex generating means in a first vortex chamber (31) are adapted to creating vortices (V) in one of two different planes, and wherein the vortex generating means in a second vortex chamber (32) are adapted to creating vortices (V) in another of the two different planes.

9. (Currently Amended) Steam conditioning device (30) according to claim 1 any of claims 1-8, comprising heating means (40) for heating a content of the steam conditioning device (30).

10. (Currently Amended) Steam conditioning device (30) according to claim 1 any of claims 1-9, suitable for use in a steam appliance such as a steam iron (1, 2), an ironing board having a steaming function, or a facial steamer.

11. (Currently Amended) Steam iron (1, 2), comprising a soleplate (15) having a soleplate surface (16) for contacting objects to be ironed, and a steam conditioning device (30) according to claim 1 any of claims 1-10.

12. (Original) Steam iron (1, 2) according to claim 11, wherein the steam conditioning device (30) is arranged and shaped such as to form the soleplate (15).

13. (Currently Amended) Steam iron (1, 2) according to claim 11 [[or 12]], comprising heating means for heating the soleplate (15) and heating means (40) for heating a content of the steam conditioning device (30), wherein the said two heating means are individually controllable.